

Natural Communities of Louisiana



Batture

Rarity Rank: S4S5/G4G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Synonyms: Riverfront Pioneer Forest, Cottonwood-Willow Forest, Black Willow Forest, Cottonwood Forest

Ecological Systems:

CES203.190 Mississippi River Riparian Forest

CES203.489 East Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest

CES203.065 Red River Large Floodplain Forest

CES203.488 West Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest



General Description:

- Develops on the slope between the natural levee crest and major streams/ivers
- A pioneer community which is first to appear on newly formed sand bars and river margins
- These areas receive sands and silts with each flood
- Soils are semi-permanently inundated or saturated, and inundation or saturation by surface water or groundwater occurs periodically, primarily during spring and summer months
- As river sediments build up, a rapid succession of plant species progresses from willow and cottonwood into bottomland forest types, including the Hackberry-American Elm-Green Ash or Sycamore-Sweetgum-American Elm variations
- The successional sequence is a function of river meander movement rates and point bar formation. Rivers with swift meander movements over unconsolidated sands produce tapered slopes on point bars which are first colonized by the batture community

Plant Community Associates

Primary pioneer tree species include:

Salix nigra (black willow)

Salix exigua (sandbar willow)

Populus deltoides (cottonwood)

Secondary tree species, appearing as succession progresses, include:

Betula nigra (riverbirch)

Platanus occidentalis (American sycamore)

Celtis laevigata (hackberry)

Forestiera acuminata (swamp privet)

Ulmus americana (American elm)

Acer negundo (box elder)

Fraxinus pennsylvanica (green ash)

Carya illinoensis (pecan)

Acer rubrum (red maple)

Planera aquatica (water elm)

Taxodium distichum (baldcypress)

Morus rubra (red mulberry)

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Federally-listed plant & animal species:

Haliaeetus leucocephalus (bald eagle)

Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act;
G4; S2N, S3B

Range:

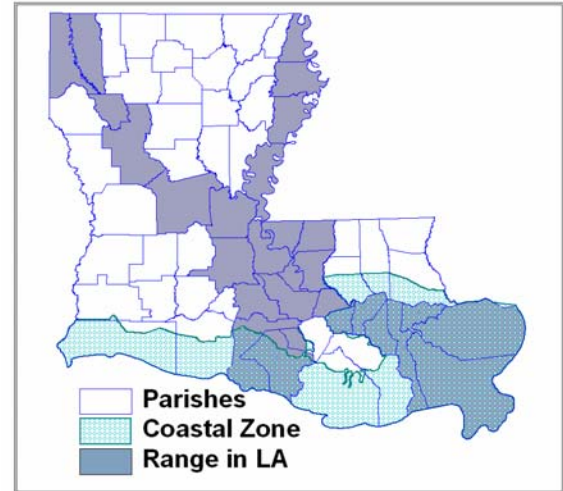
Batture occurs primarily along the Mississippi River but also along the Atchafalaya, Red, and perhaps other smaller rivers. It is apparently a secure and viable habitat in Louisiana.

LA River Basins:

Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Barataria, Terrebonne, Atchafalaya, Vermilion-Teche, Red, Ouachita

Threats:

- Operation of drainage or diversion systems
- Hydrological alterations
- Construction of roads, pipelines or utilities
- Invasive exotic species
- Industrial activities and discharge



Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent conversion of existing natural forests to other land uses
- Strictly follow [Best Management Practices](#) guidelines
- Remove any invasive exotic plant species with use of spot herbicides or mechanical means



Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

For more information, please visit our Web pages at

www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/naturalheritage or 225-765-2811

www.BTNEP.org or 1-800-259-0869